



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

# SIGMA XI QUARTERLY

---

## EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Floyd Karker Richtmyer      Edwin Emery Slosson  
Henry Baldwin Ward

---

VOL. VIII

SEPTEMBER, 1920

No. 3

---

## EDITORIALS

The attention of chapter officers is called to the fact that all matters which are to be presented to the Convention should be outlined in advance so that chapters and delegates may know of the topics needing attention and consider in advance their relation to the welfare of the organization. The December number of the QUARTERLY is especially designated by the Editorial Committee for the publication of articles bearing upon such questions as will be considered at the Convention. In view of printing conditions it is necessary to ask that material for this number be sent to the Secretary as early in October as possible.

In connection with the accounts of the installation of the three new chapters which have been added to the roll of Sigma Xi, members of the Society are given in the following pages brief statements concerning the institutions at which these chapters have been located. The questions addressed to the Executive Committee at the time of the Convention and since then have seemed to indicate a desire on the part of the membership for some specific information concerning the relation of these institutions to research, and the sketches printed answer those questions in a manner that demonstrates the right of the new chapters to take their place among the strong institutions already in membership in the organization.

Some six years ago at the Philadelphia Convention, December 28, 1914, the Society granted a charter for an alumni chapter in the District of Columbia, recognizing fully the importance of the National Capital as a center for research activity and a source of stimulation for investigation that made its influence felt over the

length and breadth of the nation and even beyond those limits. While the organization of this chapter and its influence upon research have very naturally been interfered with by conditions existing during the War so that new plans must very likely be laid to give it a proper place and work, yet despite all difficulties and trials it is bound to be a great center of research influence. This is all the more true by virtue of the magnificent growth of the National Research Council and the wide extension of its influence throughout the country. It is more than a little fortunate for Sigma Xi that its present President should be at this time one of the leaders in the development of the movement fostered by the National Research Council. The Sigma Xi Society has been from the start closely in touch with the Council as well as immediately responsive to the opportunities afforded by its organization. It will be recalled that at the Convention in New York City on December 27, 1916, President Charles S. Howe read a communication from Dr. G. E. Hale, Chairman of the National Research Council, requesting the cooperation of the Society of the Sigma Xi in organizing the research activities of the country. By unanimous vote the Executive Committee was authorized to exert its influence and lend the support of the Society to this movement. The significance of the request and the propriety of the most intimate relations between the National Research Council and the Sigma Xi Society were commented on by Professor Richtmyer in an editorial published in the *QUARTERLY* for March, 1917, and again in the June number.

At its meeting in May, 1917, the Executive Committee voted to lend its active support in every way to the Research Council and to place all the machinery of the Society and its publications at the disposal of the National Research Council. While the exigencies of the war period limited the extent to which this proffered cooperation could actually be utilized, yet the general sentiment of the Society was undoubtedly of service in a small way at least in building up public sentiment favorable to the Council. Under present conditions there is larger opportunity for active and definite cooperation, and this end will be eagerly sought by all members of the Society insofar as Sigma Xi can be of specific assistance in the research program.

The second alumni chapter to be established is that at the Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research. A brief account

of the institution and of the installation of the new chapter is given in the following pages. Here it may be appropriate to note that the Mayo Foundation represents an entirely new type of organization. Wholly devoted to the extension of knowledge, it has at its disposal funds large enough to make its investigations of pre-eminent significance. Organized under the egis of a great state university, it is assured of freedom from the control of special interests and a stability for the future that could not be accorded to any private undertaking. Definitely circumscribed in the lines of investigation that are to be developed, and yet attacking these with a breadth that is assured by the association of scientific men in a variety of fields of pure and applied science, it gives promise of yielding results for the benefit of the human race beyond those that have been realized by previous undertakings in this field. It is appropriate that the Society of the Sigma Xi should be associated at this early period with the work of the Foundation. It will aid in preserving that breadth of treatment that is inseparable from results of the most fundamental and permanent character. On the other hand the Society will receive through the working of a center exclusively devoted to research a stimulation that will act upon other chapters where varied interests necessarily limit the attention given to investigation and retard the progress of research movements.